

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY



Photo courtesy of Mary Rai
Circa 1962



Photo courtesy of Mary Rai
Circa 1931



Photo courtesy of Mary Rai
Circa 1958

The 1913 California Alien Land Act and a 1923 Supreme Court ruling set the stage for the marriage of Punjabi men to Mexican and Mexican American women. The Alien Land Act prevented Chinese, Japanese and other aliens ineligible for citizenship from owning land in California. In a 1923 Supreme Court Ruling, *United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind*, persons from the Asian subcontinent could not become naturalized United States citizens. This meant that Asian Indians were included in the Alien Land act and could not own land. Restrictive immigration laws also prevented Punjabi men from bringing their wives or families from India. These events led to the marriage of Punjabi men and Mexican American women in California.



Photo courtesy of Mary Rai
Circa 1950

The Punjabi Mexican Americans soon settled in communities that included temples and town halls. To keep their heritage alive the Punjabi would show films from India.

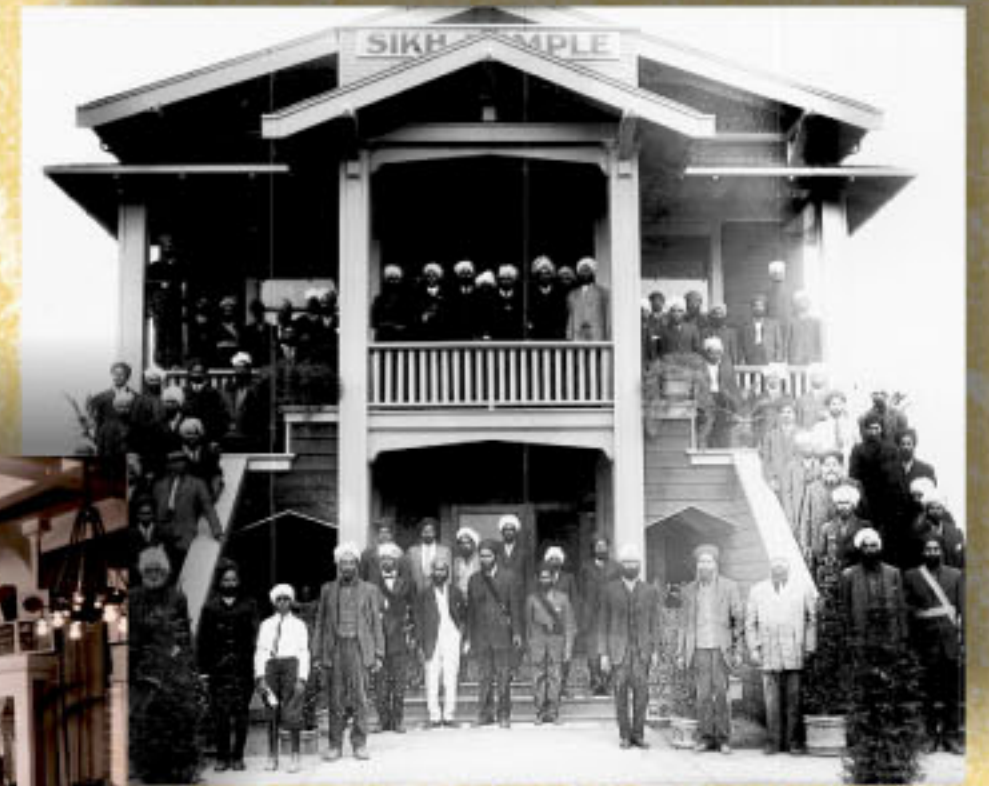


Photo courtesy of Mary Rai
Circa 1930

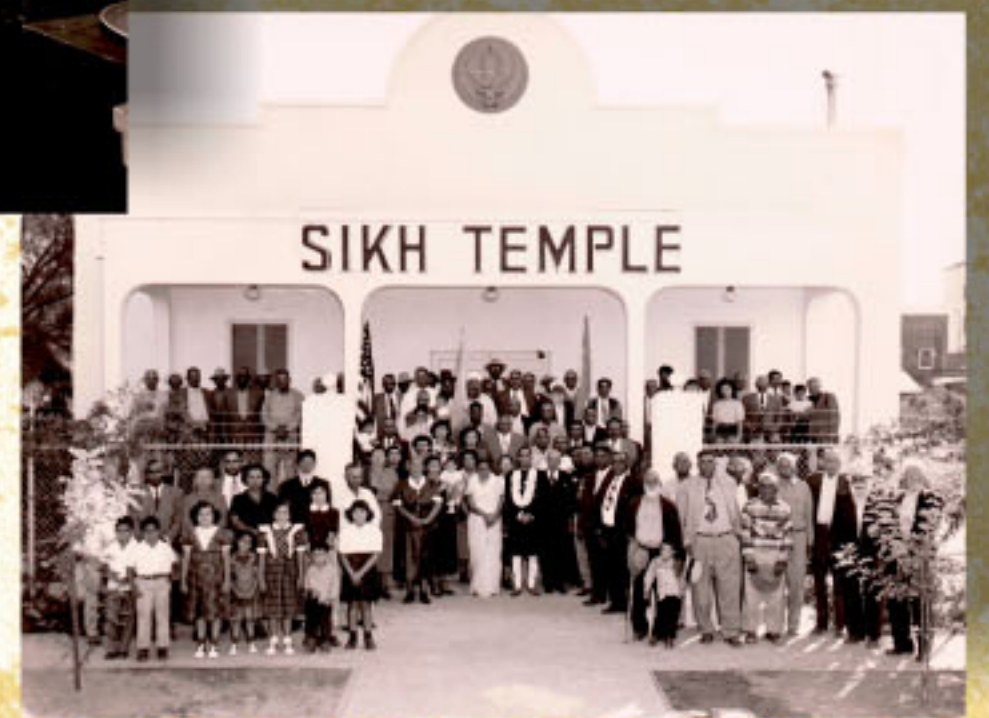


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Circa 1925